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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A reclining apparatus according for use between a post and a seat of a chair, the reclining apparatus comprising:

a first joint for attachment to claim-15 the post;

a second joint pivotally connected with the first joint and for supporting the seat;

a locking device for locking the second joint in one of several reclined positions relative to the first joint, wherein the locking device includes:

a rod connected with the second joint and movable on the first joint, the rod defines several dents; and

a latch movable on the first joint between a releasing position where the latch is away from the rod and a locking position where the latch is in one of the dents so as to lock the seat in one of the several reclined positions relative to the post; and

a spring connected between the first joint and the rod.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 2 wherein the rod and the latch are movable in transverse directions.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 2 wherein the locking device includes a mount installed on the first joint, and the rod is movably installed on the mount.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 2 wherein the locking device includes a handle for maneuvering the latch.

Claim 6 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the locking device includes a linkage connected between the latch and the handle.

Claim 7 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the linkage includes a shaft connected with the latch, and the handle extends transversely from the shaft.

Claim 8 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the linkage includes a V-shaped lever pivotal on the first joint, and the V-shaped lever includes a first end linked to the latch and a second end linked to the shaft.

Claim 9 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the linkage includes a link connected between the shaft and the second end of the V-shaped lever.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The reclining apparatus according to claim 12

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including a pin for pivotally connecting the second joint with the first joint.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 2 including a pin connected between the second joint and the rod generally perpendicular to the rod, with the spring connected to the pin and the first joint.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A reclining apparatus for use between a post and a seat of a chair, the reclining apparatus comprising:

a first joint for attachment to the post;

a second joint pivotally connected with the first joint and for supporting the seat;

a locking device for locking the second joint in one of several reclined positions relative to the ~~easing~~ first joint, wherein the locking device includes:

a rod connected with the second joint and movable on the first joint, the rod defines several dents, and

a latch movable on the first joint between a releasing position where the latch is away from the rod and a locking position where the latch is in one of the dents so as to lock the seat in one of the several reclined positions relative to the post; and

a pin connected between the second joint and the rod, wherein the first joint defines two arched slots for receiving two ends of the pin.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The reclining apparatus according to claim 12 including a tuning device for tuning the reclined positions of the second joint.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising: 13 ~~wherein the tuning device includes at least one spring connected with the second joint,~~

a screw connected with the spring and non-rotationally installed on the first joint; and

a nut engaged with the screw and rotationally installed on the first joint so that screwing of the nut on the screw causes ~~[[the]]~~ pivotal movement of the second joint relative to the first joint.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A reclining apparatus for use between a post and a seat of a chair, the reclining apparatus comprising a first joint for attachment to the post, a second joint pivotally connected with the first joint and for supporting the seat, a locking device for locking the second joint in one of several reclined positions relative to the ~~easing~~ first joint, and a tuning device for tuning the reclined positions of the second joint, wherein the tuning device includes at

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least one spring connected with the second joint; a screw connected with the spring and non-rotationally installed on the first joint; a nut engaged with the screw and rotationally installed on the first joint so that screwing of the nut on the screw causes ~~[[the]]~~ pivotal movement of the second joint relative to the first joint; and a worm rotationally installed on the first joint, and wherein the nut is a nut/gear engaged with the screw internally and engaged with the worm externally.

Claim 16 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the tuning device includes a crank extending transversely from the worm.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The reclining apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the post is a hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 18 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 17 including a lifting device for controlling the hydraulic cylinder.

Claim 19 (original): The reclining apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the lifting device includes a lever pivotally installed on the first joint, and the lever includes a first end for contact with the hydraulic cylinder and a second end to be maneuvered.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The reclining apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the lifting device includes a shaft rotationally installed on the lateral walls of the ~~easing~~ first joint and connected with the second end of the lever.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The reclining apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the first joint defines two arched slots for receiving two ends of the pin.